LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

No claims amendments are made herein. The following listing of the claims is provided for the convenience of the Examiner.

1-20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer system for managing information related to development of a product, comprising:

a product requirement interface for capturing information related to requirements that said product should fulfill in product requirement objects;

a meeting plan interface for capturing administrative meeting information in meeting plan objects;

a meeting discussion interface for capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of discussion during meetings in meeting discussion objects, wherein said meeting discussion interface creates (i) action item objects encapsulating information defining tasks, associated with design of said product, to be completed and (ii) commitment objects encapsulating information identifying individuals responsible to complete tasks defined in action item objects;

a design alternative interface for capturing information related to multiple designs associated with said product in design alternative objects; and

a requirement fulfillment interface for processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements encapsulated in product requirement objects by respective designs encapsulated in said design alternative objects.

22.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein:

meeting plan objects and meeting discussion objects are stored in a tool-neutral persistent form.

23.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein

meeting plan objects and meeting discussion objects are stored in separate relational databases, wherein associations between meeting plan objects and meeting discussion objects are captured using foreign keys.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein:

said meeting discussion interface captures decision related information in decision objects.

25.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein:

said meeting plan interface provides the ability to capture a meeting agenda in a meeting agenda object, a meeting objective in a meeting objective object, a meeting schedule in a meeting schedule object, wherein said meeting agenda object, said meeting objective object, and said meeting schedule object are stored separately in a tool-neutral form.

26.   (Previously Presented) A method for managing information related to development of a product, comprising:

capturing information related to requirements that said product should fulfill in product requirement objects;

capturing administrative meeting information in meeting plan objects;

capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of discussion during meetings in meeting discussion objects;

capturing action items defining tasks to be performed during development of said product in action item objects and commitments by meeting participants to perform said action items in commitment objects;

capturing information related to multiple designs associated with said product in design alternative objects; and

processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements encapsulated in product requirement objects by respective designs encapsulated in said design alternative objects.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

storing commitment objects and action item objects separately in a form accessible by multiple software applications through a common public interface.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

storing meeting plan objects and meeting discussion objects in a tool-neutral persistent form.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

storing meeting plan objects and meeting discussion objects in separate relational databases, wherein associations between meeting plan objects and meeting discussion objects are captured using foreign keys.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

capturing decision related information in decision objects.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 26 further comprising:

capturing a meeting agenda in a meeting agenda object, a meeting objective in a meeting objective object, a meeting schedule in a meeting schedule object; and

storing said meeting agenda object, said meeting objective object, and said meeting schedule object separately in a tool-neutral form.

32.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium, tangibly embodying program instructions for managing information related to development of a product, comprising:

code for capturing information related to requirements that said product should fulfill in product requirement objects;

code for capturing administrative meeting information in meeting plan objects;

code for capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of discussion during meetings in meeting discussion objects;

code for capturing action items defining tasks to be performed during development of said product in action item objects and commitments by meeting participants to perform said action items in commitment objects;

code for capturing information related to multiple designs associated with said product in design alternative objects; and

code for processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements encapsulated in product requirement objects by respective designs encapsulated in said design alternative objects.

33.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 32 further comprising:

code for capturing decision related information in decision objects.